

Amendments to and Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) An ergonomic handle comprising:

~~an elongate member having a proximal end and an opposite distal end, the elongate member being connectable to a tool or device; and~~

~~a thumb support member projecting laterally from the elongate member adjacent the proximal end wherein the thumb support member accommodates a user's thumb as the user grasps the elongate member in one hand.~~

a main body portion; and

an appendage support member projecting laterally from the main body portion, the appendage support member comprising a top surface that provides a concave recess wherein a principle axis of the concave recess passing through a center of curvature and a vertex of the concave recess is substantially perpendicular to and offset from a centerline of the main body portion.

2. (Currently amended) ~~The handle as claimed in claim 1 wherein the thumb support member is positioned such that the user's thumb on the grasping hand rests naturally upon the support member and is laterally offset from the elongate member of the handle.~~

The handle as claimed in claim 1 wherein the appendage support member accommodates an ergonomic placement of both a distal portion of a first appendage of a hand of a user adjacent the concave recess of the top surface of the appendage support member and a distal portion of a second appendage of the hand of the user adjacent a bottom surface of the appendage support member, wherein upon a grasping of the main body portion by the user, the distal portions of the user's first and second appendages are supported by the appendage support member and are fully offset from a lateral centerline of the main body portion.

3. (Currently amended) The handle as claimed in claim 2 wherein the ~~thumb support member defines a support surface for accommodating the user's thumb~~ first appendage is a thumb on the hand of the user.

4. (Currently amended) The handle as claimed in claim 3 wherein the ~~support surface is generally concave~~ second appendage is an index finger on the hand of the user.

5. (Currently amended) The handle as claimed in claim 2 ~~3~~ wherein the ~~support member defines a generally~~ concave recess ~~having~~ comprises a support surface and peripheral wall portions for accommodating and locating the user's thumb, the peripheral wall portions providing resistance to sliding movement of the thumb relative to the support member.

6. (Currently amended) The handle as claimed in claim 5 wherein the concave recess is dimensioned for a close fit with the thumb.

7. (Currently amended) The handle as claimed in claim 6 wherein the ~~elongate member~~ main body portion comprises a first thin portion near ~~the~~ a proximal end of said handle, a second thin portion near ~~the~~ a distal end of said handle, and a broad portion between the first and second thin portions, and wherein the broad portion is thicker in cross section than the first and second thin portions, and further wherein the change in the cross sectional thickness between each of the portions is gradual.

8. (Currently amended) A knife comprising:

a blade member having a cutting edge; and

a handle comprising:

~~an elongate member having a blade end and an opposite distal end,~~
~~the handle being connected to the blade member at the blade end; and~~

~~a thumb support member projecting laterally from the elongate member adjacent the blade end for accommodating a user's thumb as the user grasps the handle.~~

a main body portion; and

an appendage support member projecting laterally from the main body portion, the appendage support member comprising a top surface that includes a concave recess wherein a principle axis of the concave recess passing through a center of curvature and a vertex of the concave recess is substantially perpendicular to and offset from a centerline of the main body portion.

9. (Currently amended) ~~The knife as claimed in claim 8 wherein the thumb support member is positioned such that the user's thumb on the grasping hand rests naturally upon the support member and is laterally offset from the handle.~~

The knife as claimed in claim 8 wherein the appendage support member accommodates an ergonomic placement of both a distal portion of a first appendage of a hand of a user adjacent the concave recess of the top surface of the appendage support member and a distal portion of a second appendage of the hand of the user adjacent a bottom surface of the appendage support member, wherein upon a grasping of the main body portion by the user, the distal portions of the user's first and second appendages are supported by the appendage support member and are fully offset from a lateral centerline of the main body portion.

10. (Currently amended) ~~The knife as claimed in claim 9 wherein the thumb support member defines a support surface for accommodating the user's thumb~~ first appendage is a thumb on the hand of the user.

11. (Currently amended) ~~The knife as claimed in claim 10 wherein the support surface is generally concave~~ second appendage is an index finger on the hand of the user.

12. (Currently amended) The knife as claimed in claim 9 10 wherein the ~~support member defines a generally~~ concave recess ~~having~~ comprises a support surface and peripheral wall portions for accommodating and locating the user's thumb, the peripheral wall portions providing resistance to sliding movement of the thumb relative to the support member.

13. (Currently amended) The knife as claimed in claim 12 wherein the concave recess is dimensioned for a close fit with the thumb of an average adult.

14. (Currently amended) The knife as claimed in claim 13 wherein the ~~elongate member~~ main body portion comprises a first thin portion near ~~the~~ a proximal end of said handle, a second thin portion near ~~the~~ a distal end of said handle, and a broad portion between the first and second thin portions, and wherein the broad portion is thicker in cross section than the first and second thin portions, and further wherein the change in the cross sectional thickness between each of the portions is gradual.

15. (Currently amended) A hand implement comprising:

an tool member for performing the particular function of the implement; and

a handle comprising:

~~an elongate member having a proximal end and a distal end, the handle being connected to the tool member; and~~

~~a thumb support member projecting laterally from the elongate member adjacent the proximal end for accommodating a user's thumb as the user grasps the handle.~~

a main body portion; and

an appendage support member projecting laterally from the main body portion, the appendage support member comprising a top surface with a concave cavity wherein a principle axis of the concave cavity passing through a center of curvature and

a vertex of the concave cavity is substantially perpendicular to and offset from a centerline of the main body portion.

16. (Currently amended) ~~The hand implement as claimed in claim 15 wherein the thumb support member is positioned such that the user's thumb on the grasping hand rests naturally upon the support member and is laterally offset from the handle.~~

The hand implement as claimed in claim 15 wherein the appendage support member accommodates an ergonomic placement of both a distal portion of a first appendage of a hand of a user adjacent the concave cavity of the top surface of the appendage support member and a distal portion of a second appendage of the hand of the user adjacent a bottom surface of the appendage support member, wherein upon a grasping of the main body portion by the user, the distal portions of the user's first and second appendages are supported by the appendage support member and are fully offset from a lateral centerline of the main body portion.

17. (Currently amended) ~~The hand implement as claimed in claim 16 wherein the thumb support member defines a support surface for accommodating the user's thumb~~ first appendage is a thumb on the hand of the user.

18. (Currently amended) ~~The hand implement as claimed in claim 17 wherein the support surface is generally concave~~ second appendage is an index finger on the hand of the user.

19. (Currently amended) ~~The hand implement as claimed in claim 16~~ 17 wherein the support member defines a generally concave recess cavity having comprises a support surface and peripheral wall portions for accommodating and locating the user's thumb, the peripheral wall portions providing resistance to sliding movement of the thumb relative to the support member.

20. (Currently amended) The hand implement as claimed in claim 19 wherein the concave cavity is dimensioned for a close fit with the thumb.

21. (Currently amended) The hand implement as claimed in claim 20 wherein the ~~elongate member~~ main body portion comprises a first thin portion near ~~the~~ a proximal end of said handle, a second thin portion near ~~the~~ a distal end of said handle, and a broad portion between the first and second thin portions, and wherein the broad portion is thicker in cross section than the first and second thin portions, and further wherein the change in the cross sectional thickness between each of the portions is gradual.